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[LINCOLN, ABRAHAM]

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the Senate of the 5th instant in relation to the Indian barbarities in Minnesota.

DECEMBER 11, 1862.—Read, referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

In compliance with your resolution of December 5, 1862, requesting the President "to furnish the Senate with all information in his possession touching the late Indian barbarities in the State of Minnesota, and also the evidence in his possession upon which some of the principal actors and headmen were tried and condemned to death," I have the honor to state that on receipt of said resolution I transmitted the same to the Secretary of the Interior, accompanied by a note, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, marked A, and in response to which I received, through that department, a letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, marked B.

I further state that on the 8th day of November last I received a long telegraphic despatch from Major General Pope, at St. Paul, Minnesota, simply announcing the names of the persons sentenced to be hanged. I immediately telegraphed to have transcripts of the records in all the cases forwarded to me, which transcripts, however, did not reach me until two or three days before the present meeting of Congress. Meantime I received, through telegraphic despatches and otherwise, appeals in behalf of the condemned—appeals for their execution, and expressions of opinion as to proper policy in regard to them and to the Indians generally in that vicinity, none of which, as I understand, falls within the scope of your inquiry. After the arrival of the transcripts of records, but before I had sufficient opportunity to examine them, I received a joint letter from one of the Senators and two of the Representatives from Minnesota, which contains some statements of fact not found in the records of the trials, and for which reason I herewith transmit a copy, marked C. I also, for the same reason, enclose a printed memorial of the citizens of St. Paul, addressed to me, and forwarded with the letter aforesaid.

Anxious to not act with so much clemency as to encourage another outbreak, on the one hand, nor with so much severity as to be real cruelty, on the other, I caused a careful examination of the records of trials to be made, in view of first ordering the execution of such as had been proved guilty of violating females. Contrary to my expectations, only two of this class were found. I then directed a further examination, and a classification of all who were proven

to have participated in *massacres*, as distinguished from participation in *battles*. This class numbered forty, and included the two convicted of female violation. One of the number is strongly recommended, by the commission which tried them, for commutation to ten years' imprisonment. I have ordered the other thirty-nine to be executed on Friday, the 19th instant. The order was despatched from here on Monday, the 8th instant, by a messenger to General Sibley, and a copy of which order is herewith transmitted, marked D.

An abstract of the evidence as to the forty is herewith enclosed, marked E.

To avoid the immense amount of copying, I lay before the Senate the original transcripts of the records of trials, as received by me.

This is as full and complete a response to the resolution as it is in my power to make.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

A.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, December 5, 1862.

SIR: Please have the Commissioner of Indian Affairs make out and send me as complete an answer to the enclosed resolution of the Senate as the means for so doing can be found in his office.

Yours, very truly,

A. LINCOLN.

The Hon. SECRETARY *of the Interior*.

B.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, December 8, 1862.

SIR: Your note of this date, accompanied with letter of the President of December 5, 1862, and a copy of the resolution of the Senate of same date, has been received.

In compliance with the request therein contained, I have the honor to state that this office is possessed of no information concerning the matter inquired of other than that contained in my late official report, and the documents accompanying the same, all of which has been reported to you and is now before the country.

Herewith I return the papers enclosed to me.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. P. DOLE,
Commissioner.

Hon. C. B. SMITH,
Secretary of the Interior.

C.

To the President of the United States:

SIR: We have learned, incidentally, that you intend to pardon or reprieve a large majority of the Indians in Minnesota who have been formally condemned for their participation in the brutal massacres of our people in the months of August and September last.

If this be your purpose, as representatives from that State, we beg leave most respectfully to protest against it; and we do so for the following reasons:

These Indians were condemned, most of them, upon the testimony of women whom they had carried into captivity, after having murdered their fathers, husbands and brothers, and who were treated by these Indians with a brutality never known in this country, nor equalled in the practices of the most barbarous nations.

There were nearly ninety female captives. They were the wives and daughters of our neighbors and friends.

They were intelligent and virtuous women; some of them were wives and mothers, others were young and interesting girls. These savages, to whom you purpose to extend your executive clemency, when the whole country was quiet, and the farmers were busily engaged in gathering their crops, arose with fearful violence, and, travelling from one farm-house to another. indiscriminately murdered all the men, boys, and little children they came to; and although they sometimes spared the lives of the mothers and daughters, they did so only to take them into a captivity which was *infinitely worse than death.*

Mr. President, let us relate to you some facts with which we fear you have not heretofore been made acquainted. These Indians, whom (as we understand) you propose to pardon and set free, have murdered in cold blood nearly or quite one thousand of our people, ravaged our frontier for a distance of more than a hundred and fifty miles north and south, burned the houses of the settlers, and driven from their homes more than ten thousand of our people. They seized and carried into captivity nearly one hundred women and young girls, and in nearly every instance treated them with the most fiendish brutality. To show you, sir, the enormity of these outrages, we beg leave to state a few facts, which are well known to our people, but delicacy forbids that we should mention the names of the parties to whom we refer.

In one instance some ten or twelve of these Indians visited the house of a worthy farmer, who, at the time, was engaged with his sons in stacking wheat. They stealthily approached the fence where this honest farmer was at work, and, seizing their opportunity, shot the father and his two sons at the stack. They then went to the house, killed two little children in the presence of their mother, who was quite ill of consumption, and then they took the sick mother and a beautiful little daughter, thirteen years of age, into captivity.

But this is not all, nor is it the most appalling feature of this awful tragedy. Its horror is yet to be revealed. After removing these unhappy prisoners to a lodge which was some miles away, these fiends incarnate, placing a guard over the body of the weary and exhausted mother, took her little girl outside of the lodge, removed all her clothes, and fastened her upon her back on the ground. They then commenced their work of brutality upon the body of this young girl. One by one they violated her person, unmoved by her cries and unchecked by the evident signs of her approaching dissolution. This work was continued until her Heavenly Father relieved her from suffering. They left her dead upon the ground. This outrage was committed within a few feet of a *sick and dying mother.*

There is another instance of a girl eighteen years of age. We knew her well before and at the time of her capture. She was as refined and beautiful a girl as we had in the State. None had more or better friends; no one was more worthy of them than she. She was taken captive by these Indians. She was taken, her arms were tied behind her, she was made fast to the ground, and ravished by some eight or ten of these convicts before the cords were unloosed from her limbs. This girl fortunately lived to testify against the wretches who had thus violated her.

Without being more specific we will state that all or nearly all the women who were captured were violated in this way. Again: there was a little boy

brought to St. Paul, whose father and mother had been murdered, whose life was spared, as a witness of the horrid nature of this massacre. His right eye was cut completely out; it had fallen from its socket and perished on his cheek. His two little sisters, aged, respectively, six and four years, were also saved, but in an awfully mutilated condition; their tender arms mangled with the savages' knives, and otherwise fearfully wounded, and left on the ground for dead.

Mr. President, there was no justification or pretext, even, for these brutalities. We state what we know when we say that the Sioux agent, Major Galbraith, has labored faithfully and efficiently for the welfare of these Indians. The government, as you know, has built a house and opened a farm for every one of these Indians who would reside upon and cultivate it. Missionaries, as our worthy Bishop can testify, have labored zealously among them for their spiritual welfare. There has been paid to them yearly the interest upon two millions of dollars. Farming implements have been purchased, and farmers have been employed by the government to improve and cultivate their lands.

These Indians are called by some prisoners of war. There was no war about it. It was wholesale robbery, *rape*, *murder*. These Indians were not at war with their murdered victims.

The people of Minnesota, Mr. President, have stood firm by you and by your administration; they have given both you and it their cordial support; *they* have *not* violated the *law;* they have borne these sufferings with a patience such as but few people ever exhibited under such extreme trial. These Indians are now at their mercy; but our people have not risen up to slaughter them, because they believed that their President would deal with them justly.

We are told, Mr. President, that a committee from Pennsylvania, whose families are living happily in their pleasant homes in that State, have called upon you and petitioned you to pardon these Indians. We have a high respect for the religious sentiments of your petitioners, but we submit that it is in bad taste; indeed that it is entirely unbecoming them to interfere in matters with which they are so little acquainted, and which relate to the security of our own people.

We *protest against the pardon* of these Indians, because, if it is done, the Indians will become more insolent and cruel than they ever were before, believing, as they certainly will believe, that their great father at Washington either justified their acts or is afraid to punish them for their crimes.

We *protest against it* because, if the President does not permit these executions to take place under the forms of law, the outraged people of Minnesota will dispose of these wretches without law. These two peoples cannot live together. We do not wish to see mob law inaugurated in Minnesota, as it certainly will be, if you force the people to it.

We tremble at the approach of such a condition of things in our State.

You can give us peace, or you can give us lawless violence. We pray you, sir, in view of all that we have suffered, and of the danger which still awaits us, *let the law be executed; let justice be done our people.*

With high respect, we are, sir, your obedient servants,

M. S. WILKINSON.
CYRUS ALDRICH.
WM. WINDOM.

MEMORIAL.

To the President of the United States:

We, the citizens of St. Paul, in the State of Minnesota, respectfully represent that we have heard with fear and alarm, through the public newspapers, reports of

an intention on the part of the United States government to dismiss without punishment the Sioux warriors captured by our soldiers; and further, to allow the several tribes of Indians lately located upon reservations within this State to remain upon the reservations.

Against any such policy we respectfully, but firmly, protest. The history of this continent presents no event that can compare with the late Sioux outbreak in wanton, unprovoked, and fiendish cruelty. All that we have read of Indian warfare in the early history of this country is tame in contrast with the atrocities of this late massacre. Without warning, in cold blood, beginning with the murder of their best friends, the whole body of the annuity Sioux commenced a deliberate scheme to exterminate every white person upon the land once occupied by them, and by them long since sold to the United States. On carrying out this bloody scheme they have spared neither age nor sex, only reserving for the gratification of their brutal lusts the few white women whom the rifle, the tomahawk, and the scalping knife spared. Nor did their fiendish barbarities cease with death, as the mutilated corpses of their victims, disembowelled, cut limb from limb, or chopped into fragments, will testify. These cruelties, too, were in many cases preceded by a pretence of friendship; and in many instances the victims of these more than murders were shot down in cold blood as soon as their backs were turned, after a cordial shaking of the hand and loud professions of friendship on the part of the murderers.

We ask that the same judgment should be passed and executed upon these deliberate murderers, these ravishers, these mutilators of their murdered victims, that would be passed upon white men guilty of the same offence. The blood of hundreds of our murdered fellow-citizens cries from the ground for vengeance. "Vengeance is mine, I will repay saith the Lord," and the authorities of the United States are, we believe, the chosen instruments to execute that vengeance. Let them not neglect their plain duty.

Nor do we ask alone for vengeance. We demand security for the future. There can be no safety for us or for our families, unles an example shall be made of those who have committed these horrible murders and barbarities we have related. Let it be understood that these Indians can commit such crimes and be pardoned upon surrendering themselves, and there is henceforth a torch for every white man's dwelling, and a knife for every white man's heart upon our frontier.

Nor will even the most rigorous punishment give perfect security against these Indians so long as any of them are left among or in the vicinity of our border settlements. The Indian's nature can no more be trusted than the wolf's. Tame him, cultivate him, strive to Christianize him as you will, and the sight of blood will in an instant call out the savage, wolfish, devilish instincts of the race. It is notorious that among the earliest and most murderous of the Sioux, in perpetrating their late massacre, were many of the "civilized Indians," so called, with their hair cut short, wearing white men's clothes, and dwelling in brick houses built for them by the government.

These facts are well known to our border settlers, and appreciated by them as they cannot be by those who live in the midst of populous communities, far away from the savage foe. These facts have made the question simply whether the Indians or the white race shall possess Minnesota. What immigrant will bring his family to a land where the savages are in such close proximity that he is liable any day to be shot by an ambushed foe in his own door-yard, or on his return home from his day's labor to find his family outraged and murdered.

Minnesota is the best farming State in the Union, by its natural advantages of soil, climate and position. It is capable of sustaining a purely agricultural population of millions, and in addition possesses great facilities for manufacturing.

Shall we who have made our homes here under the promised protection of the national government, who have paid that government the required price for the

land on which we have made our homes, be driven into exile by the savages from whom government bought the soil of almost the whole State, and against whom that government is bound to protect us?

We respectfully ask, we demand, that the captive Indians now in the hands of our military forces, proved before a military commission to be guilty of murder, and even worse crimes, shall receive the punishment due those crimes. This, too, not merely as a matter of vengeance, but as much more a matter of security for our border settlers.

We ask further, that these savages, proved to be treacherous, unreliable, and dangerous beyond example, may be removed from close proximity to our settlements to such distance and such isolation as shall make the people of this State safe from their future attacks.

We hope that men whose friends and relations have been foully murdered by these Indian devils will not be compelled to take vengeance into their own hands, as they assuredly will if government shall fail in its duty in the matter.

D.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, December 6, 1862.

Ordered, That of the Indians and half-breeds sentenced to be hanged by the military commission composed of Colonel Crooks, Lieutenant Colonel Marshall, Captain Grant, Captain Bayley, and Lieutenant Olin, and lately sitting in Minnesota, you cause to be executed, on Friday, the nineteenth day of December instant, the following named, to wit:

Te-he-hdo-ne-cha	No.	2 by the record.
Ta-zoo, *alias* Plan-doo-ta	No.	4 by the record.
Wy-a-teh-to-wah	No.	5 by the record.
Hin-han-shoon-ko-yag	No.	6 by the record.
Muz-za-bom-a-du	No.	10 by the record.
Wah-pay-du-ta	No.	11 by the record.
Wa-he-hud	No.	12 by the record.
Sua-ma-ni	No.	14 by the record.
Ta-te-mi-ma	No.	15 by the record.
Rda-in-yan-kua	No.	19 by the record
Do-wan-sa	No.	22 by the record.
Ha-pan	No.	24 by the record.
Shoon-ka-ska (White Dog)	No.	35 by the record.
Toon-kan-e-chah-tah-mane	No.	67 by the record.
E-tay-hoo-tay	No.	68 by the record.
Am-da-cha	No.	69 by the record.
Hay-pee-don, or Wamne-omne-ho-ta	No.	70 by the record.
Mahpe-o-ke-na-ji	No.	96 by the record.
Henry Milord, a half-breed	No.	115 by the record.
Chaskay-don, or Chaskay-etah	No.	121 by the record.
Baptist Campbell, a half-breed	No.	138 by the record.
Tah-ta-kay-gay	No.	155 by the record.
Ha-pink-pa	No.	170 by the record.
Hypolite Ange, a half-breed	No.	175 by the record.
Na-pay-shue	No.	178 by the record.
Wa-kan-tan-ka	No.	210 by the record.
Toon-kan-ka-yag-e-na-jin	No.	225 by the record.
Ma-kat-e-na-jin	No.	254 by the record.

Pa-zee-koo-tay-ma-ne ..... No. 264 by the record.
Ta-ta-hde-don ..... No. 279 by the record.
Wa-she-choon, or, Toon-can-shkan-mene-hay ..... No. 318 by the record.
A-e-cha-ga ..... No. 327 by the record.
Ha-tan-in-koo ..... No. 333 by the record.
Chay-ton-hoon-ka ..... No. 342 by the record.
Chan-ka-hda ..... No. 359 by the record.
Hda-hin-hday ..... No. 373 by the record.
O-ya-tay-a-koo ..... No. 377 by the record.
May-hoo-way-wa ..... No. 382 by the record.
Wa-kin-yan-na ..... No. 383 by the record.

The other condemned prisoners you will hold, subject to further orders, taking care that they neither escape nor are subjected to any unlawful violence.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President of the United States.

Brigadier General H. H. SIBLEY,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

E.

SIR: Having, by your directions, examined the records of the convictions of Sioux Indians by the military commission ordered by Brigadier General Sibley, we submit the following list of those who were convicted of rape and murder, viz:

No. 1. O-TA-KLA, *alias* GODFREY, a negro.—Engaged extensively in the massacres, and, though sentenced to be hung, recommended to have his punishment commuted to imprisonment for ten years, because of the valuable testimony and information he furnished the commission.

No. 2. TE-HE-HDO-NE-CHA.—Engaged in the massacres; took a white woman prisoner, and *ravished* her.

No. 4. TAZOO, *alias* PLAN-DOO-TA.—Convicted of participating in the murder of Mr. Patville, and of ravishing a young girl.

No. 5. WY-A-TAH-TO-WAH.—Confesses to have participated in the murder of Mr. Francis Patville, and to have been engaged in three battles.

No. 6. HIN-HAN-SHOON-KO-YAG-MA-NE.—Convicted of the murder of Alexander Hunter, and of having taken and had Mrs. Hunter a prisoner until she was rescued from him by another Indian.

No. 10. MUZ-ZA-BOM-A-DU.—Convicted of the murder of an old man and two children.

No. 11. WAH-PA-DU-TA.—Confesses that he was engaged in the massacres, and that he shot a white man.

No. 12. WA-HE-HUD.—Convicted of participating in the battles, and of murder.

No. 14. SUA-MA-NI.—Convicted of the murder of two persons.

No. 15. TA-TE-MI-MA.—Convicted of murder, and of the capture of women and children.

No. 19. RDA-IN-YAN-KUA.—Took a prominent part in all the battles, including the attack on New Ulm, leading and urging the Indians forward, and opposing the giving up of the captives when it was proposed by others.

No. 22. DO-WAN-SA.—Convicted of the murder of a white woman, and of the design to *ravish* her daughter, who was wounded by him and killed by another Indian before he had carried his design into execution.

No. 24. HA-PAN.—Confessed that he was in all the battles and at the murder

of Mr. Patville, and that he aided in taking a white woman (Miss Williams) prisoner.

No. 35. SHOON-KA-SKA, (White Dog.)—Was the leader of the party that attacked Captain Marsh's company, and was the man who detained Captain Marsh in conversation until the Indians crossed the river and surrounded the command, and then gave them the signal to fire.

No. 67. TOON-KAN-CHAH-TAY-MANE.—Said in presence of witness that he shot a man in an ox-wagon, and was in several battles.

No. 68. E-TAY-HOO-TAY.—Told witness that he killed Divoll and seven white persons across the river; that the second day after crossing the river he killed a man and a woman

No. 69. OM-DA-CHA.—Took witness, David Farribault, prisoner, who says he shot two persons at his house.

No. 70. HAY-PEE-DON, or WAMNE-OMNE-HO-TA.—Cut Mrs. Thieler with a hatchet after she had been shot by another Indian, and fired many shots at the fort.

No. 96. MAHPE-O-KE-NA-JI.—Convicted of the murder of Antoine Young, and of participating in the murder of another man, four women, and eleven children.

No. 115. HENRY MILORD, a half-breed.—Convicted of participating in the murder of a white man and woman.—(See cases 138 and 175.)

No. 121. CHASKAY-DON, or CHASKAY-ETAY.—Convicted of shooting and cutting open a woman who was with child.

No. 138. BAPTISTE CAMPBELL, a half-breed.—Confessed that he was one of the party who murdered a man and woman, and that he shot first.—(See cases 115 and 175.)

No. 155. TAY-TA-KA-GAY.—Convicted of murdering or of participating in the murder of Amos W. Huggins.

No. 170. HA-PINK-PA.—Convicted of the murder of Garvie.

No. 175. HYPOLITE ANGE, a half-breed.—Confesses that he was one of the party that murdered a white man, and that he fired at him.—(See cases 115 and 138.

No. 178. NA-PA-SHUE.—Convicted of participating in a massacre, and boasted that he had killed nineteen persons.

No. 210. WA-KAN-TAN-KA.—Convicted of the murder of a white man not named.

No. 225. TOON-KAN-KA-YAG-E-NA-JIN.—Convicted of participating in the murder of a white man at the Big Woods.

No. 254. MA-KAT-E-NA-JIN.—Convicted of participating in the massacres near New Ulm, and of encouraging the young men to do so.

No. 264. PA-ZE-KOO-TAY-MA-NE.—Convicted of participating in the murder of a party of eight white men.

No. 279. TA-TAY-HDE-DON.—Convicted of participating in the massacre at Beaver creek, and of taking captive a white woman.

No. 318. WA-SHE-CHOON, OR TOON-KAN-SHKAN-SHKAN-MENE-HAY.—Convicted of participating in the murder of La Butt's son.

No. 327. A-E-CHA-GA.—Convicted of participating in the murder of an old man and two girls.

No. 333. HA-TAN-IN-KOO.—Convicted of participating in the murder of a man at Green lake; admits that he struck him with an axe after he had been shot by others of the party.

No. 342. CHAY-TON-HOON-KA.—Proved to have been one of a party that committed the massacres at Beaver creek.

No. 359 CHAN-KA-HDA.—Is proven to have been of the party, and present when Patville was killed, and to have saved Mary Anderson (who had been wounded) from being killed, and to have taken her prisoner.

No. 373. HDA-HIN-HDAY.—Convicted of the murder of Mrs. Adams's child, and others. Was one of the party that brought Mrs. Adams in.

No. 377. O-YA-TAY-A-KOO.—Convicted of participating in the murder of Patville.

No. 382. MA-HOO-WAY-WA.—Convicted of participating in the massacre at "Travellers' Home," and of murdering a man on the road near there.

No. 383. WA-KIN-YAN-NA.—Convicted of participating in the murder, near the "Travellers' Home," of an old man, two young girls, and two boys.

To facilitate your reference to these particular cases we have withdrawn the papers from the records of the commission and submit them herewith.

With great respect, your obedient servants,

GEORGE C. WHITING.
FRANCIS H. RUGGLES.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *December* 5, 1862.

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